[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai]

if they do not turn up when called upon to give evidence. In such cases, the collector has no alternative but to assess the person as a defaulter.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഫൈനൽ ഇൻകം ടാക്സിനത്തിൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും സംഖ്യ റീഫണ്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അതു നടപടി പിശകുകൊണ്ടു് ആദ്യത്തെ തീർച്ചയെ അസ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തി റീഫണ്ട് ചെയ്യുകയാണോചെയ്തത്?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): അങ്ങനെയുമായിരിക്കാം. നടപടി പിശകില്ല എന്നഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. നടപടി പിശകുണ്ടാകാം. നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം അതു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ജാഗ്രതചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Does not the member feel that it is an anomaly to have the collector both as the assessor and the judge?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : That is the law as it stands now.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Cannot that be remedied?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : It may be considered.

All the criticisms that have been made here will be borne in mind, and everything possible will be done to mitigate the hardships experienced by the assessees. That is all that we can do.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): In the face of the assurance given by the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner that all possible remedies will be effected, I do not wish to press the motion.

Motion No. 61.

The following motion was not moved.—

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,320 under Demand II by Rs. 19,319.

The Demand was put to the vote of the House and carried.

The grant was made.

The House rose for lunch at 1-30 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-16 P. M.

DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT—

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,27,401 under Demand III—Excise.

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I submit that I had sent in a few motions under Excise. I do not find them printed, Sir.

PRESIDENT: They were late.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I sent them before 48 hours.

PRESIDENT: Unfortunately, they are also irregular.

Motion 62.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): ന്ധ,.....

PRESIDENT: Can you not speak in English, Mr. Mahomed Haneef? I think you can speak in English all right. Try, anyhow.

MR M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 300, for local allowance to Inspectors, by Rs. 5.

My object is to bring to the notice of Government the necessity for improving local salt. The matter has been brought to the notice of Government repeatedly in various sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council; still, I am sorry that no improvement worth the name has yet been made. Sir, I think God Almighty has given us resources enough to produce salt not only for our needs but also for our neighbours outside. When Nature has given us all facilities, I do not see any reason why we should import foreign salt. Every year I find that a large quantity of salt is left in stock as surplus after sales. I therefore submit that the practice of importing salt may be discontinued at once and that all manner of facilities may be given for improving salt industry in Travancore.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What is the sort of facility that the member has in view for improving the local salt industry?

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): I understand that, out of about a thousand odd acres of salt pans in South Travancore, salt is actually produced only in about four hundred odd acres. I am sure if the Government will bestow some attention in the matter and give financial and other assistance to the owners of the alloms, the whole area may be cultivated and the output of salt increased.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it due to the fault of Government that the 600 odd acres of salt pans are not being cultivated?

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Government are not giving the necessary impetus.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the sort of impetus, please?

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Mainly financial help. Many of the licensees are not in a position to invest the necessary money. Government must give easy loans.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Do not these licensees, who are not able to invest, lease out their alloms to people who are in a position to invest?

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Is not the member aware of the fact.....

PRESIDENT: Order, please, Mr. Elenkath. Mr. Asan is asking a question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Do not the persons who are not able to finance the enterprise, lease out their alloms to others who are in a position to do it?

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Some people do it.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I rise to support the motion brought forward by Mr. Haneef. It has been the policy of Government from very early times to see that the manufacture of salt is encouraged. In the Report for 1054. I find that the policy of the Government went in that direction.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): On a point of order, Sir. Can the policy of the Department be discussed under a cut of the allowances of Inspectors?

PRESIDENT: Please speak to the point, Mr. Elenkath.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, the object of the motion itself as mentioned by the member, was to plead for enhancing home manufacture of salt. At present, Sir, about twenty per cent. of the salt needed for local consumption is being imported. I understand that some of the pans, especially those in Colachel and Rajakamangalam, are not working properly. As the mover has pointed out, one great difficulty is that the licensees cannot afford the necessary investment. Recently, attempts have been made by some of these licensees to co-operate among themselves and work the alloms on a company basis. As far as the Colachel allom is concerned, I know that, if facilities are given, the output can be improved. There are, mainly, two disadvantages under which the lessees labour, namely want of brine, and want of facilities to pump out fresh water from the pans. These can be avoided only by adequate financial help. The Colachel allom is being worked under the monopoly system. Under that system the lessees are given 4 as. per maund, and the Government have to bear all the working expenses. Under such a system we cannot blame the licensees.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Except the Colachel and the Rajakamangalam alloms, is there any allom under the monopoly system?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): As far as I am aware, these are the only two alloms working under the monopoly system.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is there any other lessee or lessees enjoying better facilities at the hands of the Government?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Under the modified system the lessees are enjoying greater facilities. Moreover some of the alloms have natural disadvantages, for instance, the Colachel allom. The Report says that Mr. Vipan, who was Chief Engineer here, went into the

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question and suggested a plan of work for the satisfactory working of these alloms. If that work is carried out, it is sure to improve these alloms; and local salt industry will, of course, improve.

With these words, I support the motion.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I wish to put a question to the member.

PRESIDENT: He has sat down,

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I sympathise with the mover of the proposition that local salt industry must be improved; but I entirely differ from him in regard to his proposals. During the last 14 years, Government have been spending huge sums of money for the improvement of the Rajakamangalam and Colachel Alloms which are the so-called monopoly factories. But the result has been complete failure. My friend suggested, as a remedy, the pumping out of fresh water and the pumping in of brine. Sir, that has been tried. It proved a failure; whether the failure is due to the ignorance of the Department or to the way in which the P. W. D. Officers executed the work, I cannot say. The fact remains that a good deal of money has been wasted. Nobody, who knows anything about salt industry, will again suggest to Government the improvement of these factories under existing conditions.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is the member completely hopeless about these two alloms?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I fear.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Can the member think of any uncultivated allom which can be improved?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): No.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): So, local salt industry cannot be improved, according to the member?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Certainly, it can be improved but not by the proposals now made by the mover.

MR. CHANGANACHERY [K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): What are the member's suggestions in the matter?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Government, I must say, are now giving very favourable terms to the licensees. Twenty years ago they were getting 3 chs. per maund. Now, the present Excise Commissioner has raised it to 4 as. From an economic point of view, I do not at all approve of the action of the Excise Commissioner. Anyway, the Excise Commissioner has realised the legal implications of agreements entered into with some of the licensees and has agreed to give them 4 as. per maund.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Has not the rate been revised to eleven chackrams.?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): No.

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[Mr. G. Nilakantan.]

It is only four annas.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : May I request the member to correct himself by a reference to page 44 of the Administration Report ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : I know it is four annas and not 11 chackrams.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is only four annas.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : As regards the development of the factories, I myself have taken up this question, but I will speak on the subject if the members want me to do so. Now the manufacturing area in all the alloms is about 327 acres. But 90, being the acreage of the old alloms (at Rajakamangalam and Colachel,) they may be left out; and there is a balance of about 237 acres. These factories yield only 10 lakhs of maunds at the greatest. The remaining 9 lakhs of maunds, which we require to be kept in stock as a reserve, is now being imported by Government from outside. The question is whether we can get all the 19 lakhs of maunds from the existing factories. I say most emphatically that we can.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) ; Do you require all the 19 lakhs of maunds for a year's consumption ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : No. Nine lakhs of maunds are required as reserve.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) :Suppose we are able to manufacture 12 lakhs of maunds every year.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : It depends upon favourable weather. If the weather is defective we will not be able to manufacture the whole quantity. If we are assured that we can always supply 12 lakhs of maunds without fail from our own alloms, then certainly we need not import foreign salt. Otherwise we will have to.

To renew my subject, about 238 acres are available for salt manufacture. Now, we find that there are certain factories which yield a high percentage of salt per acre and there are some factories which do not yield so much. The factories that yield most are those which have a good brine supply. These factories which have a good supply of brine yield from 5 to 6 thousand maunds per acre annually. Now, that means, if all the factories are supplied with good brine we can manufacture about 19 lakhs of maunds. The question of brine supply has been engaging the attention of Government for the last fifteen or sixteen years. The most unfortunate thing about it is that Government are so slow in coming to a conclusion. Red-tapism accounts for this state of affairs. The importation of 10 lakhs of maunds means that every year we are losing about 5 lakhs of rupees which would have gone to the well-being of the people of the State, if we manufactured all the salt we require. The people of these villages,

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when I went to Thamaracolam and the surrounding villages in 1092, were extremely poor and had only dirty loin cloths to wear and they were willing to work for 4 chs. a day. After six years, when the new factories came into existence, the labourers became very big men and were moving about with coat and turban and were getting from 12 annas to Rs $1\frac{1}{2}$ a day.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion brought forward by Mr. Haneef, for this is a matter about which a great deal has been said in this House on previous occasions. Travancore, we all know, has got very many facilities for the development of salt culture. We have got in South Travancore places eminently fitted for salt manufacture. Thamaracolam and the surrounding places, Rajakkamangalam and a little to the west of it Colachel, these are all places where any quantity of salt can be manufactured. I do not share the pessimism of my friend Mr. Nilakantan.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know which is the area where salt can be manufactured in abundance in Colachel?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*). The Colachel salt pans.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Can the member say what the present yield is?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I would refer the member to the Administration Report of the Excise Department where the figures are given.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): What is the acreage of the Colachel pans?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Colachel and Rajakkamangalam put together come to about 76 acres.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Is that the acreage of pans on which no salt is manufactured?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): No salt is manufactured there; that is my complaint.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I want to know whether the figure referred to by the member is the figure of acreage on which no salt is manufactured.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): The area is described as waste pans.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I want to know whether the member can suggest any means of improvement?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I can.

Now, Sir, this importation of foreign salt, especially Bombay salt and Tinnevelly salt, is quite unnecessary. It is a waste and a drain on

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[Mr. Pacode A. Narayana Pillai.]

our resources when we have got facilities for the manufacture of salt in our own State. My friend, Mr. Nilakantan, said that it is not possible at all to bring all these areas under salt culture.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : I said that only of the Rajakkamangalam and Colachel alloms.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I shall refer to page 20 of the Administration Report for the Excise Department.

"Rajakkamangalam	37·99	acres.
Colachel	36·00	do.
Thamaracolam Old Allom	1·7425	do.
Thamaracolam Puthallom	·98	do.
	76·7125	acres.

The largest number of waste pans was in the Colachel and Rajakkamangalam alloms. The failure to work these pans was mainly due to fresh water percolation and want of sufficient supply of brine. The negligence of the licensees of these two factories was also a contributory cause for such a large area being allowed to lie waste."

Then again at page 22 this is what I find —

"The problems of fresh water percolation and the difficulty of getting brine still remain unsolved as in previous years. The work proposed by the late Chief Engineer, Mr. Vipan, *i, e.*, the construction of a combined foot bridge and aqueduct across the Pampuri Vaikal for taking brine into the reservoir has not been completed."

I emphasise the words "*has not been completed.*"

"How far this work will solve the problem of brine supply can be known only after it is completed."

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Does the member know that the work has been condemned by the present Chief Engineer?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I am not aware of any conclusion being arrived at by the present Chief Engineer or by any other officer. On the other hand, we heard of joint inspections conducted by the Excise Commissioner and the Chief Engineer; but nothing has been done so far.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Does the member know that there have been applications for taking up these alloms?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I am not aware of that. But one thing is clear. We know as a matter of fact that these two alloms were very thriving alloms in olden days. Salt was being manufactured there in large quantities, and it is only of late that these two alloms were left without any cultivation. I believe that it is chiefly due to the apathy of the Government, especially of the Departmental heads who are responsible for the development of these two factories. Well, Sir, I believe that if these two alloms are worked and if all facilities are given and all the engineering works suggested by one of the former Chief Engineers are carried out—

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member what those works are?

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*). They are works for the prevention of fresh water percolation. One of the former Chief Engineers suggested the construction of a combined foot bridge and aqueduct across the Pampuri Vaikal for pumping brine into the allom. These are the works suggested by an expert. These works have not been attended to. If these two defects can be rectified, I believe, all the members on this side of the House will agree with me when I say that so far as salt manufacture is concerned our State can be self-sufficient.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): May I inform the member that the aqueduct was completed and brine was taken along the aqueduct this year, but that the licensees did not take advantage of the brine on account of lack of co-operation?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): That is a matter that a sagacious head of the department could prevent. I do not think we should grow despondent over such a contingency.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Nilakantan, you are not in order.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): So I support the motion moved by my friend Mr. Haneef.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know from the member whether it is part of the duties of the Excise Commissioner to bring about union among the licensees?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): He can certainly do it if he wants.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Neduvangad*): Sir, in supporting the motion before the House, I submit that the time has come for Travancore to completely put a stop to the importation of salt from outside Travancore and to make the country self-supporting so far as the requirements of salt are concerned. For this purpose, if proper private enterprise is not coming forth to take up the manufacture of salt, I would request the Government themselves to take up the work in their own hands and work it up profitably to the State and to the good of the people.

MR. CAANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Sir, the object of the motion, as given in the motion paper is to discuss the desirability of improving the manufacture of salt.

PRESIDENT: I take it that it is more extensive than that. It wants to make Travancore self-supporting.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Yes, Sir. I can see that the object of the mover in making the motion is to make Travancore self-supporting in regard to salt. The mover of the proposition and some others who supported him have suggested that this might be done by the extension of salt

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[Mr. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

culture by bringing under cultivation all the areas fit for such culture. Mr. Nilakantan who was for a long time in charge of the salt factories at Thamaracolam thinks that no extension of salt culture will satisfy our needs but that the best thing will be to develop the existing factories as the other factories are unfit for salt culture. In either case the aim is to produce all the salt required for our consumption in the State itself. So far as that is concerned, I think all of us are agreed. The question as to which of the means suggested is best suited to the conditions obtaining here is a matter for the consideration of Government. In that view, I have great pleasure in supporting this proposition.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : I support the motion brought forward by Mr. Haneef. In doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of Government and of this House that, in spite of the natural resources of this country to manufacture much more salt, than we actually require, we are not able to produce enough salt. Although we can produce more salt than is required for our use, we are importing salt from other parts of India.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. My object in supporting this motion is simply to clear some misconception regarding the question of development of these factories with a view to increase the out-turn. As a matter of fact, it will be found from the statistics that the outturn of salt has been growing steadily from year to year. From a comparison of the figures for the last three years, it will be found that the out-turn in 1105 was 7·94 lakhs of maunds, in 1106 it was 10·06 lakhs of maunds and in 1107 it was 11·63 lakhs of maunds which is the highest record so far. There is no ground for complaint that the salt factories are not developed on proper lines if the out-turn is the criterion. There is no scope for development by extensive cultivation.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know the name of the licensee who is working the allom yielding the largest out-turn?

MR. S. CHTTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : I am speaking of all the Alloms together.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : May I know the name of the licensee who is working the Sri Sankara Allom?

PRESIDENT : That does not arise from anything the member has stated.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : The only way to improve the out-turn then is by intensive cultivation. I perfectly agree with Mr. Nilakantan, who has had considerable experience in the working of Salt Factories, when he says that it is not possible to work the Rajakkamangalam and Colachel factories.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Why is it impossible ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : I will come to that later on. There is a definite motion for that.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know how many years ago Mr. Nilakantan was in charge of the Alloms ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : As he himself said, he was there about 10 or 15 years ago.

The only way then for improving the out-turn of salt is to find ways and means of securing intensive cultivation. That reduces itself to the question of securing an adequate supply of brine.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): How is it possible to increase the out-turn if the area is not capable of being extended ? Is there any other area which is suitable for salt manufacture ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : I cannot think of any area other than South Travancore suitable for salt manufacture.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What about Colachel and Rajakkamangalam ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : They are not suitable.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : What is the member's opinion about closing of these Alloms ?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : Has the member made any enquiry about all the places in Travancore where salt can be manufactured ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Yes, manufacture of salt is limited by weather conditions. But it will be found that rainfall is lowest only in South Travancore. In Tamaracolam the rainfall is only about 25 inches. Other places are not suitable for manufacture of salt.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I bring to the notice of the member the fact——

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can any member ask any other member a question to bring to the notice of that member certain facts ?

PRESIDENT : I do not think Mr. Krishna Pillai has finished his question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it because the member fears that the Colachel and Rajakkamangalam Alloms will cause loss to the Government that they should be closed ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : That is one of my suggestions.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Does the member know that the Excise Commissioner holds a different view in regard to this ?

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : I am speaking for myself, and not for anybody else.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I am asking for information whether the member knows that the Excise Commissioner is holding a different view ?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : Is the member's views based on expert opinion ?

MR. S. CHATTANATA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*). I am giving my own opinion.

MR. PACODE A NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Then, why are the Colachel and Rajakkamangalam Alloms not developed ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : They should be closed down.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) Is it not because other Alloms are given special facilities while these alloms are not given any facilities ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : That view is due to a radical misconception about the facilities referred to.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Does the member think that it cannot be remedied ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : I have come to the conclusion that these alloms cannot be worked satisfactorily. That is my opinion.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : ശരിയായി ജോലിനടത്തി യാൽ ഉപ്പ് വിളയിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്ന് വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Yes, certainly I am of that view. The only way to obtain greater out-turn is to improve the brine supply. I think the Excise Commissioner will tell us how far he has succeeded in concerting measures for the improvement of brine supply.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, before the Excise Commissioner rises to speak on this motion, I wish to offer a few observations. It certainly goes without saying that indigenous culture of salt is far more advantageous to the State than importation from outside. But a certain circumstance has been brought to the notice of this House even by those who supported the motion and favoured it namely, that a certain area for the culture of salt is lying waste. In these days when moneyed people are ready to invest large amounts on remunerative concerns, I do not see why those people are not coming to work these areas and earn a profit. Certainly there is something wrong. Either there is something wrong with the salt obtained from these Alloms or the business is not sufficiently paying. Any way the Administration report for the year 1107 speaks in these terms. I hoped to obtain some information from Mr. Karayalar, who is competent to speak on this subject, and that is why I put certain questions to him.

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I thought if it was a mere waste of money in having the Colachel and Rajakamangalam factories, then he ought to say that. But at page 20 of the Administration report of the Excise Department for 1107, the Commissioner says as follows :

> " It is hoped that as soon as the works connected with the supply of brine direct from the sea are completed, the factories would be in a position to manufacture a still larger quantity of salt under favourable weather conditions."

The factories alluded to here are the factories in Rajakkamangalam and Colachel.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I tell the member that this particular remark applies to the Tamaracolam Group and not to Rajakkamangalam ?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : There is nothing to indicate here that it refers to those Alloms in exclusion of those mentioned by me. Any way I am speaking subject to correction. If there is any chance of improvement, for this industry, Government should not neglect any works helpful to it. As for the advantages of greater output of local salt, one need not say anything on the subject. Therefore, if it is found advantageous, it is the imperative duty of the Government to encourage the manufacture of local salt in all possible ways and with all possible speed.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സർ, തൻനാട്ടിൽ ഉപ്പു ധാരാളം വിളഞ്ഞു സംസ്ഥാനത്തിനആവശ്യമുള്ള മുഴവൻ ഉപ്പുംലഭിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ സന്തോഷം തന്നെ. എന്നാൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്ക് ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ഉപ്പിനോട്ട വലിയ പഥ്യമില്ല. ഞങ്ങളുടെ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള ഗൃഹനായികമാർ ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ഉപ്പ് വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതിൽ വലിയ വിരോധികളാണ്, അതിന്ന് കാരണം തൻനാട്ടുഉപ്പിൽ ധാരാളം മണ്ണ് ചേത്തിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അതു് ഏറെക്കുറെ വാസ്തവവുമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്കു ബാംബെ ഉപ്പിനോടാണ് താല്പര്യമുള്ളതു്?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : മണ്ണ് ഇല്ലാത്തതു കൊണ്ടുമാത്രമാണൊ ബാംബെ ഉപ്പു വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതു്.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അതെ.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : ബാംബെഉപ്പിനു കാരം കൂടുതൽ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടല്ലെ അതിനെ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതു്?

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): മേല്പറഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു കാരണങ്ങളും ഉണ്ട്. തൻനാട് ഉപ്പ് പ്രചാരത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടു വരണമെങ്കിൽ അതു വിളയിക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തിൽ വളരെ സൂക്ഷ്മത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. അതില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് തന്നാട്ടു ഉപ്പിന് ഈ ആക്ഷേപം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുവരാതിരിക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ തൻനാട്ടു ഉപ്പ് ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിൽ അവക്കുള്ള തടസ്സത്തെ നീക്കംചെയ്യ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായവും ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

വേറെ ഒരു സംഗതികൂടി എനിക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാനുണ്ട്. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്ക് ബാംബെ ഉപ്പിനോടു ഉള്ളതാല്പര്യം കൊണ്ട വലിയ നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട് ഉപ്പു വില്പനസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ബാംബെ ഉപ്പും നാട്ടു ഉപ്പും തമ്മിൽ കലർത്തി തിരിച്ചറിയാതിരിക്കാനായി ബാംബെ ഉപ്പു കല്ലുകളെ എല്ലാം മുകളിൽകൂട്ടിവച്ചു കൌശലമായ രീതിയിൽ വിറ്റുവരുന്നു.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Is the member in order to speak about the method of selling salt when we are concerned with the development of salt industry.

PRESIDENT: No. Mr. Varughese, the issue is methods of improving the manufacture of salt in Travancore so as to make Travancore self-supporting.

MR. N. E VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അതിനാൽ ബാംബെഉപ്പ് കൂടുതൽ ചിലവാകാതിരിക്കാനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നു ചെയ്യണം. അതോടുകൂടി തൻനാട്ടു ഉപ്പിന്റെ ദൃഷ്യത്തെ മാറ്റുകയും ചെയ്യണം. ബാംബെ ഉപ്പിനോടു നാട്ടുകാർക്കുള്ള പ്രതിപത്തിയെ കുറയ്ക്കണം.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): അതിനു തൻനാട്ടു ഉപ്പിനെ എന്തുചെയ്യണമെന്നാണു്. പറയുന്നതു്?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): മണൽ ചേർത്തു വില്പന നടത്തിവരുന്നു. അതിനെ തടയണം. കൂടുതലായി ശുദ്ധിയാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണം.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): മണൽചേക്കുന്നതു് മനഃപൂർവമായിട്ടാണൊ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): മനഃപൂർവം നിമിത്തമോഅല്ലാതെയോ കലക്കി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ അടിയിൽ മണൽകാണുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നു മാത്രമെ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, the aim of the Government is to make Travancore self-sufficient in the supply of salt and the Government have been doing everything in their power to improve the out-put of salt in the Travancore Factories, as may be seen from the quantity of salt manufactured 10 years ago when compared with the quantity manufactured last year. In 1097, the total quantity manufactured in all factories in Travancore was maunds 4·24 lakhs and it was steadily rising till it reached the record figure of maunds 11·63 lakhs in 1107. This year on account of the unexpected and incessant rain the expectations in the matter of out-put of salt have not been fulfilled. If weather conditions had been favourable, I am sure the out-put this year would have been greater than what it was last year. This steady increase is a sure indication of the interest taken by Government in improving the salt manufacture in the State.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Is not a greater out-put possible according to the improved conditions?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. Of course, it cannot be said that the maximum has ever been reached. The quantity that can be produced depends to a greater extent upon weather conditions. I shall show there are difficulties in the way of having the maximum quantity manufactured from all our factories. The Government have not been unmindful of the importance of salt manufacture in the State and the necessity for making it self-supporting as far as possible.

Now, the Salt Factories in Travancore are mostly in Thamaracolam. The total acreage under salt manufacture may be roughly put down as 1,200 acres. The actual pan area is only 472 acres. Out of 1,200 acres, about 950 acres are situated at Thamaracolam. In the factories at Thamaracolam, there are certain difficulties which stand in the way of the licensees putting forth all their energies in getting the maximum quantity manufactured. As some of the members just now mentioned, salt manufacture is being carried on in Travancore under two systems. One is the monopoly system and the other, modified Excise system. According to the monopoly system, the major and minor Maramat works are done by Government at their cost and the whole quantity of salt manufactured is taken over by Government *i.e.*, 60 per cent as Government share without any payment and the balance on payment of Kudivila. The licensees have no right of private sale. The Kudivila in respect of the monopoly factories for the licensee's share till the year 1092 was 7½ Chuckrams per maund of licensee's 40% or 3 chuckrams on the entire quantity manufactured. This was raised to 4½ chuckrams on the entire quantity in 1092 and was again raised to 5 chuckrams per maund on the entire quantity, or 12½ chuckrams for the licensee's share in 1095 The Kudivila has now been raised to 4 annas per maund on the entire quantity or 10 annas on the licensee's share. As pointed out by Mr. Nilakantan, that was done to encourage the licensees working under the monopoly system.

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[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

In the case of factories working under the modified Excise system, the licensees need deliver to Government only a fixed quantity annually on receipt of Kudivila as cost of manufacture. The quantity they have to deliver is only a small portion of the total out-turn. The surplus salt over and above the quantity to be delivered to Government they are free to dispose of on payment of the duty due to Government. The licensees themselves attend to the major and minor Maramat works in their factories. Government have to incur only the expenditure on account of establishment and contingent charges.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it is more advantageous to run the salt industry by the Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Like other industries it is the policy of the Government to leave the manufacture of salt to private enterprises.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know how this arrangement affects the general price of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The price of salt is settled by Government.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether, after the enhancement of this kudivila, the price of salt has in any way increased?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the member explain the following statement in the Administration Report?

> "During 1107, the kudivila was raised to 17 chuckrams 13 cash (10 as.) per maund with a view to provide a fair margin of profit for the licensees of the old factory."

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That requires a word of explanation. Under the monopoly system, Government are entitled to get free of payment 60 per cent of the salt manufactured in the factories. This is called Melvaram or Government's share of the produce. The remaining 40 per cent go to the licensees and is called the kudivaram or licensee's share. The kudivila has now been raised to 4 annas per maund on the whole quantity or 10 annas on the licensee's share. That is the cause of the difference which has been pointed out.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): The member said that all that was possible was done for the development of salt factories in Travancore. May I know, whether anything has been done towards the supply of brine which is the most important item for the manufacture of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that presently.

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As a measure for the improvement of the manufacture of salt, enhanced kudivila was given to the licensees of the factories working under the monopoly system. There are two factories at Thamaracolam, the old allom and Puthallom, which had not adopted the modified Excise system. They both were granted the Modified Excise system lately. But the licensees have not been able to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded to them. The two factories at Rajakamangalam and Colachel are still working under the monopoly system. These factories are subject to certain disabilities of their own. The rainfall is heavier at Colachel and Rajakamangalam than at Thamaracolam. In addition to that, there is the trouble on account of fresh water percolation, and the difficulty to get good brine. Government are devoting their attention to the problems. I may inform Mr. Nilakantan that for the supply of brine to the Colachel Factory direct from the sea, a combined foot bridge and aqueduct has been constructed across the A. V. M. canal. By this means, brine was supplied to the Colachel Factory this year; but the licensees did not make use of it. Their number is large and most of them are poor. There is no co-operation among them.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*). May I know when the licensees got their brine supply?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot give the exact time.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): When does the manufacture commence?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That more or less depends on weather conditions.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Can the member tell at least the latest time for commencing manufacture of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That depends on weather conditions. It may be either in Chingam or Kanni for the Purattasi Pani and Makaram for the Thye Pani.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Can the member say that, in Makaram last, brine was available for these factories?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have already told the member that I am not aware of the exact time when brine was made available this year.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Can the member assure me that at the time of manufacture, brine was available for the Colachel Factory?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): All I can say is that, if the licensees wanted to manufacture salt, brine was available?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Can the member say that the licensees did not manufacture salt because of their laziness or because they had no brine at the time of manufacture?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have answered that.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Is it not a fact that brine could be made available only towards the close of the manufacturing season, that is, in Kumbhom or Meenom, when it would be too late to be utilised for the manufacture of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There was brine available for the manufacture of salt this year and the licensees did not make use of it.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : The member says that the licensees did not make use of the brine available to them. Is there not a provision in the license enabling the Commissioner to cancel the license when any irregularity is shown by the licensees.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I will come to that presently. So far as increasing the out-put is concerned, it can only be achieved in one of two ways, either by extending the area under cultivation or by intensive cultivation. As regards extension I must say that almost all lands fit for salt culture have already been brought under cultivation. What little can be done by way of further extending the area under salt manufacture is being done by the Government. About 30 acres of land has been acquired by Government in the—

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know, so far as lands available for salt manufacture are concerned, whether, all the lands have been surveyed ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I do not say that all the lands have been surveyed.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The member was saying that the lands cannot be extended.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I said that it is not possible to expand the area to any considerable extent.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : That is why I want to know from the member whether there are still lands available fit for salt manufacture in Travancore.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The manufacture of salt is possible only in places where the rainfall is low.

As Mr. Karayalar said, it is only in South Travancore where the rainfall is low and where it will be possible to manufacture salt.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Was not a general inspection of Travancore conducted by the late Excise Commissioner Mr. Raman Pillai and the then Chief Engineer Mr. Bastow with a view to find out whether more area could be tapped for salt cultivation?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am not aware of it. I have not seen any reference to it anywhere.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : കായംകുളം കായലി നടുത്തുള്ള കീരിക്കാട്ടുതലായസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് സൌക ര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളാണല്ലേ?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): കായംകുളം പണ്ട് ചെറിയ രാജാക്കന്മാരുടെ കീഴിൽ ഇരുന്നകാലത്തു ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അവിടെ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കിവന്നിരുന്നു. അവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിവന്ന ഉപ്പ് വളരെ മോശമായിരുന്നതിനാൽ അതിനു വളരെ വിലകുറച്ചു വിൽക്കേണ്ടിവന്നു. ആ ഉപ്പിൽമണ്ണും ചെളിയും ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനാൽ അവിടെ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നപതിവിനെ നിറുത്തി എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവു.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ആ സ്ഥലത്തു് ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നസമ്പ്രദായം ഫലപ്രദമാക്കുന്നതിനായി കൂടുതൽ ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): മുമ്പു് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഉപ്പ് വളരെ മോശമായിരുന്നു. മഴയും അതിനു പ്രതിബന്ധമായിരുന്നു.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അതിന്റെ കച്ചളിററിയെ നന്നാക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പററി ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അതിനെപ്പററി ആലോചിക്കാമോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): മൻപു സൌകര്യമില്ലെന്നുകണ്ടു ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ് ഇതു്.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is the fact that those kings manufactured salt recorded in history?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): We have got records to show that.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ആലോചനകഠം നടത്തി പരീക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നതിനു മൻപു ഈ സംഗതി ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടതെങ്ങിനെ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): അനുഭവത്തിൽ നല്ല ഉപ്പല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ആ സംഗതി തള്ളിക്കളഞ്ഞതു്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the rainfall heavier now than in those days?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not a question of comparison between the rainfall in those days and now. Now Travancore has got better places for the manufacture of salt.

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MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Was it found that the manufacture of salt would cost less to the people in those days?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : What was found was that the salt manufactured in those places was of an inferior quality and it fetched only a lower price than the salt produced in South Travancore.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : The Excise Commissioner stated that the inferiority consisted in the colour of the salt and not in quality. Could not something be done to remove the dirt and sand by purification? These are the two grounds urged by the Excise Commissioner.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : These are the two reasons by which the manufacture of salt was given up in those places.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it difficult to remove impurity of dirt and sand from the salt manufactured in these areas?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It can be tried.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is the Commissioner prepared to do that?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : If there is any application we will consider the question.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Does the member know that one of the old abandoned pans is now working satisfactorily?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Does the member know why that salt pan at Variyoor was abandoned?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : At that time it was found impracticable to get brine.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : What is the area of that Allom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The pan area is 4·42 acres.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : What is the number of pans?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The number of pans must be approximately 440.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member whether the waste waters flow from the allom to the sea?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Can the member say the same thing about the Colachel and Rajakkamangalam Alloms?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Is it not possible to take away the excess water ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : That is under consideration.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Was it not tried and given up ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes. There are certain difficulties.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the date from which the importation of foreign salt into Travancore began ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I cannot give the exact date.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : May I know whether there are applications for licenses for Colachel and Rajakkamangalam Alloms.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am coming to that.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Sir, I rise to a point of order. When questions are asked to the Excise Commissioner he has been saying that he is coming to those points. Is there not a time limit for coming to the points ? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT : He has to answer questions which takes longer time.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Speaking about the extension of the area under salt manufacture, I began to say that 30 acres of land have lately been acquired by Government for the purpose of resuscitating the defunct Thattarippu Odai factory. The land has been given over to a gentleman who has undertaken to work it. Similarly Mr. Muthuswamy Karayalar of Shencotta has applied for permission to open a new factory at Rajakkamangalam. His application is under the consideration of Government. These are the ways in which the out-put of salt in Travancore is sought to be increased by extending the area under cultivation.

Coming to the other question of increasing the out-put by intensive cultivation, the Government are doing everything in their power to make the factories yield as much as possible. The one difficulty confronting almost all the factories is the question of brine supply. As regards the Thamaracolam Factories, there is a definite proposal by the late Chief Engineer and an estimate is pending sanction with the Government. I have already referred to the action taken by the Government for supplying brine to the Colachel Factory. As regards Rajakkamangalam Factory, the brine coming from the sea gets diluted with the fresh water in a channel called the Alenkal. To prevent this, the Government have sanctioned the diversion of the Alenkal and the work is in progress. Percolation of fresh water into the factories is another difficulty felt in some of the factories. The Government are doing everything possible to get over this difficulty.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there not representations from the old allom licensees to reduce the Government share in the out-turn of salt in the old alloms?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Representations have been received.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member the action taken on those representations?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So far as the old allom is concerned, conversion to the modified system was made only last year. Government's share was fixed at 9 maunds per pan. Now the licensees say that it is too high and that it must be reduced. But the rate was fixed only last year and it is not yet time to decide whether the rate fixed is too high and should be reduced. I would wait and see the yield for some time before making a recommendation to the Government for a reduction.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether there is any scheme contemplated by Government to supply good brine to the Thamaracolam Factories?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So far as Thamaracolam Factories are concerned, there were several proposals before the Government. Finally the late Chief Engineer Mr. Westerdale proposed that a series of wells may be sunk on the beach side and water pumped out and sent to the various factories. An estimate for sinking a well as an experimental measure has been sent up to the Government, and it is now under the consideration of the Government. If that proves successful, the idea is to have a series of wells sunk to supply enough of brine for all the factories at Thamaracolam. Government are doing everything possible in that direction.

What Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai pointed out from the Administration Report refers to the Thamarakulam Factory and not to the Rajakkamangalam Factory as explained by Mr. Karayalar.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is any agreement between the Travancore Durbar and the British Government that a fixed quantity of salt shall be imported from outside?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There is no such agreement. We are free to manufacture any quantity of salt that we can and even send it outside if there are people to buy.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is there any possibility of working the alloms profitably?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Government are doing all in their power to make it successful. It is for the licensees to see that profit is made out of it.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In the Commissioner's view, is it in any way profitable to take it up because difficulty has been created by the suggestion of Mr. Karayalar that they should be closed?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I cannot give an answer to that.

Mr. N. E. Varughese referred to the practice of the merchants in mixing Bombay salt and Travancore salt and then selling it to the people. These are things over which the Department has no control. He also said that the merchants mix sand with salt. I don't know how that can be prevented. If they continue this practice the people will find it out and avoid such merchants. The merchants will soon see it is no good to resort to adulteration of salt. This is all that I have to say on this motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Could not the Government see that the salt issued from the alloms is not mixed with sand ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : So far as I am aware, there is no mixing of sand with salt. If there is any such adulteration, it must be the mischief of the merchants. When salt is issued from the Factories or Depots it will be pure and Government cannot exercise much of control over it thereafter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : If it is the mischief of the merchants, sand will be found in Bombay salt also : but this complaint is only about local salt.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Bombay salt crystals are bigger and so it is not easy to add sand to it.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Has it ever come to the notice of the Excise Commissioner that local salt is being adulterated with sand ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No. I have never heard of such a complaint.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : May I know .....

PRESIDENT : The member has sat down.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*) : Sir, on the assurance given by the Excise Commissioner that he will encourage the manufacture of local salt, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : I oppose the withdrawal.

PRESIDENT : In spite of the assurance by Government that all that is possible will be done to make Travancore self-supporting in the matter of salt ?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : We have been getting such assurances year after year.

PRESIDENT : The motion is that of Mr. Mahomed Haneef to reduce the allotment of Rs. 300, local allowance to Inspectors, by one rupee. The issue is that the Department is not doing sufficient to improve salt manufacture in the State and to make Travancore self-supporting in the matter of salt.

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The motion was put to vote and lost.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :

AYES—26.

1	Mr.	T. K. Alexander
2	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan
3	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kalkulam II)
4	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kottarakara)
5	,,	K. R. Elenkath
6	,,	Antony George
7	,,	M. Mahomed Haneef
8	,,	S. J. Nair
9	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon
10	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panicker
11	,,	E. V. Krishna Pillai
12	,,	Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai
13	,,	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai
14	Mr.	M. N. Nair
15	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
16	,,	P. K. Narayana Pillai
17	,,	G. Nilakantan
18	,,	Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
19	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
20	,,	Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai
21	,,	V. Ramakrishna Panickar
22	,,	R. Raman Pillai
23	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
24	,,	N. E. Varughese
25	,,	V. K. Velappan Nair
26	,,	T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

NOES—30.

1	Mr.	C. V. Chandrasekharan
2	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar
3	,,	P. Chidambaram Pillai
4	,,	K. George
5	Miss	Hepzibah Gnanasikamony
6	Mr.	L. H. Jacob
7	,,	N. John Jospeh
8	,,	J. M. Joseph
9	,,	T. C. Joseph
10	,,	K. C. Karunakaran
11	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri
12	,,	K. M. Krishnan
13	Rao Sahib	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
14	Mr.	E. K. Kunjuraman
15	,,	C. O. Madhavan
16	,,	K. Madhavan
17	Mr.	B. Narayana Pillai
18	Srimathi	T. Narayani Amma
19	Mr.	R. Nilakanta Pillai
20	,,	K. Padmanabhan
21	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
22	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
23	,,	T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
24	,,	R. Sambasiva Aiyar
25	,,	K. Sankaran
26	,,	R Sivasubrahmanya Nadar
27	,,	M. Sivatanu Pillai
28	,,	T. C. Thommen
29	,,	John Whisely Tolson
30	,,	T. K. Velu Pillai

NEUTRALS—12.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib
2	,,	K. C. Abraham
3	,,	V. T. Chacko
4	,,	M. K. Janardana Kamath
5	,,	T. S. Jayanthan Namputiri
6	,,	T. Krishna Pillai
7	Mr.	C. V. Kunjuraman
8	,,	K. M. Kuriakose
9	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai
10	,,	K. Mahomed
11	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai
12	,,	V. T. Thomas

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PRESIDENT : The next motion is the late motion of Mr. Varughese, which, unfortunately, is also irregular.

Motion 63.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

"*That the allotment of Rs. 10,639 for Salt Factories be reduced by Rs. 5.*

Sir, my object in making this motion is to offer some remarks regarding the administration of the salt factories. I am not concerned with the question of extending the manufacture of salt by extensive cultivation. There is no scope for that. I am concerned only with the question of urging upon the Department certain measures calculated to give facilities to the existing factories in the matter of drainage of the area surrounding the factories and in the matter of brine supply. In regard to these matters I am only concerned with the locality surrounding the Tamaracolam alloms. The drainage of this area has been before the Government for a pretty long time, and they have not yet come to any definite conclusion as to the way in which this can be satisfactorily done. Frequent floods in Pazhayar river, which discharges itself into the Manakudi lake in which all the Tamaracolam factories are situated, have led to considerable accretions of sand and mud in the Manakudi lake so much so the level of the bed of the lake has been rising gradually and steadily. Sir, about seven years ago, Government gave a pledge to the old Legislative Council that they would periodically clear the silt of the Manakudi lake and thereby minimise the possibility of the factories being flooded. I am in a position to state, Sir, that no attempts are being made to redeem that pledge, with the result that we are being reduced to an awkward situation. Even normal floods are enough to cause a flooding of the factories, with all the accompanying evils and disastrous conseqences. I would, therefore, particularly urge upon the attention of Government the necessity of taking immediate steps to clear the silt that is being brought down by the Pazhayar river and to undertake some sort of periodical dredging operations so that ordinary floods may not lead to the breaching of the bunds and destruction of salt already manufactured and stored on the platforms.

Another point that I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is with regard to the question of brine supply. That question, in regard to the Tamaracolam alloms, has been engaging the attention of Government for a long time. From the annual report, I find that Government have been considering the question for the last fifteen years. But nothing tangible has resulted from their consideration. The Excise Commissioner has been saying that if the scheme for brine supply matures, it will result in the output of salt being sufficiently increased to meet the local needs. But, I want to know when exactly the scheme is going to materialise. I want a definite answer whether Government have finally adopted the scheme or whether they have abandoned it. The present state of suspense has disastrous consequences. It has resulted in a state of idleness on the part of the licensees, since, hoping

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that the Government would improve brine supply, the licensees concerned have not thought of making their own arrangements for adequate supply of brine. If the Government would say no, they would at least be thrown upon their own resources.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What are those arrangements, please ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): All that I have been saying is what I find in the Administration Report. It is the Department that says that. And, it is not all factories that will be benefited by the scheme.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Does the delay on the part of Government, in this matter, seriously interfere with the manufacture of salt ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Certainly.

All that I want is that the Excise Commissioner must make a definite statement in the matter.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of Government is their attitude in the matter of extending concessions to the licensees. I find that some concessions are being granted to some factories to the exclusion of others. That is sufficient, Sir, to create heart-burning to other licensees similarly situated. I fail to understand why the Government should single out particular licensees for favour.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Sir, it is a very serious allegation that the member has made. We would like to know the sort of concessions that the member is referring to ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I will draw the attention of the House to the remarks on page 23 of the Administration Report of the Department.

"With a view to give an impetus to the manufacture of salt the licensees who were indifferent even in the execution of maramat works in the factory"——

that is, the Puthalam,

"have been granted concession of private sale, of the surplus salt over and above the 36,000 maunds fixed to be delivered to Government annually from the beginning of Thye pani 1107."

Sir, I do not grudge concession being granted to licensees; but it must be on some definite principle and not at the mercy of this officer or that officer. This has got a very unwholesome effect. It will have its inevitable reaction this way.

The other licensees also may be tempted to give up the manufacture of salt or be indifferent over it and look to Government for concessions of this nature. Another consequence of this action is that Government also are prejudicially affected by such a sort of concession because they are indirectly offering capital to the capitalists to run their concern. If, at all, they do it, it must be on some principle applicable to all the licensees. As I said, I do not grudge the giving of concessions. Only it must be based on a general principle,

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was this concession applied for and got?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*); I do not know. This is what the report says.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Then the member does not know anything beyond the statement in the Report?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the circumstances under which such concessions came to be granted?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That is indicated in the Report itself. It is with a view to give an impetus to the manufacture of salt in that factory.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the member feel convinced about the *bona fides* of that statement?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am not concerned with the *bona fides* or anything else. It may be with the idea of encouraging the manufacture of salt in that particular factory.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is it the member's opinion that these concessions are granted with a view to give an impetus to the manufacture of salt?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): It may be true in that particular case. But I am concerned with the reaction of such a proposal on the other manufacturers.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I take the member to mean that, even if it is with a view to give an impetus to the local manufacture of salt, no concession should be granted?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Any concession that is granted should not operate to the prejudice of other licensees. If any concession is granted, it must be on a general principle.

MR. A. TANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): How does the concession referred to in the report affect the other licensees?

MR S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): They are placed at a distinct disadvantage.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is it not a heart-burning that the other licensees will be affected?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That depends.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether there is any instance where an application for concession given by some of these licensees was rejected by the Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I know of several instances. I am not making any specific reference to the present Excise Commissioner.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the Commissioner and the Government is with regard to the sale of salt in the salt factories. At present the licensees and the Government are offering

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the salt on the ridges of the factories for sale to the public. This is a very pernicious practice. What I want to suggest is that the licensees, so long as they have got their stocks on the platform, should be free to sell their salt, subject however to certain conditions and restrictions.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Is it sold on the ridges?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): On the platform. That is only a minor point. Subject to certain conditions, namely, that when the licensees by a combine on their part inflate the price which is laid down by Government, or when their stock is exhausted, the Government should be at liberty to offer their own salt for sale. So long as the licensees have got salt on the platforms of these factories, Government should not compete with the licensees. This is also the practice obtaining in British India where the Government after getting their share from the licensees keep it on the platform and after a number of years they destroy that even after payment of kudivila to the licensees. That is a wholesome practice which this Government may also copy.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Is not that due to the over-production there?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Whatever principle is obtaining there is applicable here also.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): These are the suggestions which I want to bring to the notice of the House.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, in supporting this motion, I beg to offer a few remarks. In the first place I refer to the damages caused by frequent floods in the factories. The water-spread of the Pazhayar river was about 1,500 acres in the year 1084. In 1085 two more factories came into existence which reduced the area still further. By 1094 three more factories came into existence with the result that the area of the Manakudi lake was reduced to about 800 acres. Now, this Manakudi lake was the natural reservoir for brine. The old factories got the brine from this lake. It was their one source of supply. The establishment of the new factories was by the reclamation of the lake with the consequence that it became narrower. We now find that the lake is very narrow and the natural process of silting is being increased day by day and the main cause for this state of affairs is the establishment of factories by Messrs Karayalars and some others. They constructed the alloms in the middle of the lake.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Did they do it without the sanction of Government? Did they encroach upon *poramboke* Government land?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Anyhow, the thing has been done. The duty of Government is to see that the silting process does not injure the factories. Certain works were executed by the P. W. D. for the removal of the silt by the scouring action of the river. They

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were somewhat successful, but for some reason or other it was given up. It is unfortunate the narrow portion of the lake is being silted up rapidly. When I was there I know that about Rs. 2,000 was allotted for keeping open the bar now and then. These works are not being done now. The department is not devoting sufficient attention in the matter of clearing silt of the lake.

Coming to the brine supply, we find that the source of brine supply has been cut off on account of the creation of new factories. In 1084 there were only 2 factories; the acreage of the lake was sufficiently extensive. It was a sort of an outer brine reservoir. There the brine would concentrate and this concentrated brine served the old factories, the old allom and the Puthallom. The old allom used to produce about 2,50,000 of maunds of salt and the Puthallom about 1,30,000 maunds. Now these factories do not yield more than 35,000 to 50,000 maunds of salt per annum. What have Government done in having taken away this source of brine supply for the purpose of the construction of the new alloms? They have done very little to cure the defects.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether he is aware of the existence of a portion called the Bottle Neck?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Yes, I am aware.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether that is situated in the old allom or in the new allom?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): It borders three other alloms than these.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member the particular place where it is situated?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): It touches the factories of the Cape Comorin Co., and those of Mr. Karayalar and Mr. Ayadhanial. The Puthallom, one of the biggest factories, is now adversely affected because a number of factories have been constructed on the lake which formed the source of brine supply.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Is there any brine there in the lake or is it only fresh water?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): There is practically only fresh water in the lake. This defective brine supply is mainly due to the existence of other factories and if the Excise Commissioner has given any concession to Puthallom I can very well understand. In fact the Puthallom and the old allom have suffered and are suffering for want of brine.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, if there is one man whom the Nanjinad cultivator hates with all his heart, it is the salt manufacturer, for the very simple reason that the salt manufacturer wants sunshine throughout the year while the Nanjinad cultivator wants rain.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Does not the salt manufacturer want both sun and rain?

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MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): He wants as much sun as possible whereas the cultivator requires as much rain as possible.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): What does the salt manufacturer do to prevent the rains?

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): He only wishes. Not that he is able to do anything in the matter of stopping the rains.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I inform the member that the salt manufacturer also wants rains?

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): It is much more rarely than the cultivator does.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know from the member whether the agriculturist also wants the sun?

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Yes, at the season when the cultivator wants rain, the salt manufacturer wants the sun. At the time when it would be better for the cultivator to have the sun, the salt manufacturer does not want it. Of course this desire does not do any harm. What does happen is that the salt basin at Manakudi lake has been utilised by the salt manufacturers, so much so, that a reason for the floods is contributed to these salt factories. Whether that is founded on truth or not is another matter. The main thing is that the history of these factories will go to show that at the very beginning it was not at all a paying industry, but only later on it proved to be paying. It was started by a local syndicate from South Travancore and one private gentleman also started a factory after the encouragement given by Government. That, of course, is not important. Subsequently others came forward with plenty of money, invested their money in the factories and on account of their good fortune the industry became a thriving one, so much so that now salt makes people's mouths water. There were days when it was a paying proposition and there were days also when the salt manufacturer found it hard to make both ends meet. The fact now is that the Manakudy lake basin is completely taken up by these factories and there is no possibility of any more extension there. Not only that. Even the factories which existed there are a matter for complaint so far as the agriculturists are concerned. That is how the matter stands. The only thing left is there was the Variyur factory which is a small affair even now. That was taken up by a gentleman who happened to be a member of the old Assembly. Then there is the Thattarippu Odai factory which was taken up by a member of the Old Legislative Council. It remains to be seen whether these people will not be burning their fingers now. It has to be seen whether we can produce all the salt necessary for the country by working intensively all the factories. One matter that I would suggest is that the transport of salt by sea is very cheap for carrying it to other parts of Travancore. No

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facilities are available now for the purpose. If transport is made by vessels belonging to Travancore, then that industry also will be encouraged. I hope Government will give sufficient attention to this subject in order to encourage the industry.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, Mr. Karayalar has referred to four points. The first is the improvement of drainage system around the factories. As Mr. Karayalar pointed out, there is the danger of the factories being overflown at the time of high floods. That is due to the fact that more than two-thirds of the Manakudi lake have been converted into factories. The area of the lake has been reduced to that extent. All that we can now do is to let out the water into the sea. The bar is opened to let out the flood-water and the silted portions are deepened from time to time. Government will bear in mind the extreme importance of the work and will be prepared to do everything that they can to prevent silting up of the lake.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was any attempt made by Government to find out a free flow for the water?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, very serious attempts were made. There is what is called the bottle-neck portion and the idea is to have it in a fan shape, and to excise off the projecting portions.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): When once Government were convinced of the necessity for these works, what was the difficulty in giving effect to the same?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The difficulty is that a good deal of expenditure is involved. The Chief Engineer also doubts whether the flood damages could not be prevented otherwise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether the Government's position in regard to the bottle-neck is not yet settled?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not yet finally settled.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know how long the matter has been engaging the attention of the Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say exactly how long. It has been pending for some time.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was it before Government in 1100?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not know. On account of the complicated nature of the question, no decision could be arrived at immediately.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether the bottle-neck is a portion of what was once the lake?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): So the difficulty was created by the connivance of the Government in assigning away the lake.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It cannot be said that the Government connived at it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether there will be no more registration in the bed of the Manakudi lake?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): At present the idea is not to register any more portion of the Manakudi lake.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What is the area under cultivation in what was once the part of the lake approximately?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The total extent of salt factories at Tamaracolam is a little below 1,000 acres.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Of these how much formed part of the lake once?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say exactly.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I want to know the extent of the harm done with the knowledge of the department.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible exactly to say that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Approximately.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It will be below 1,000 acres. The second point referred to by Mr. Karayalar is the supply of brine. So far as brine supply is concerned, Government have got a definite scheme which has been sanctioned. They propose to sink wells on the sea coast. I do not think anything more need be said on that point

The third point of Mr. Karayalar relates to the concessions given to some of the licensees. I think Mr. Karayalar has not understood the position correctly. It is not a favour shown to some of the licensees to the prejudice of other licensees. What is stated in the report is only in reference to the complete conversion of Puthallom into the modified Excise system.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): But that is not how it is worded in the Report.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The wording is not capable of any misconception. It relates to the conversion of Puthallom into the modified system. No special concession was given to the licensees.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was there any rejection of the concessions as referred to at page 23 of the Report?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not understand exactly what he means.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I am referring to the concessions in the form of private sale of salt to the extent of 36,000 maunds.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They have to supply salt to Government every year for sale.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): So, will this sort of concession be given to other licensees in Colachel or Rajakkamangalam if they pray for it?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): If they come forward with any definite proposal, Government will be only too ready to accept it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he is aware of the answer of Mr. Karayalar to the effect that there are so many applicants for this concession ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is why I say Mr. Karayalar did not understand it properly.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Was not remission granted to the licensees of Extension No. 2 ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is not referred to in the Administration Report.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I refer to this only as an instance.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is only the conversion of the Puthallom into the modified Excise system.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether these concessions adversely affect other licensees ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It does not at all affect them in any way.

The last point referred to by Mr. Karayalar is the sale of Government salt in Salt Factories and the supposed competition by Government with private licensees. There has been no competition by Government with the licensees. Government get nearly 3 lakhs of maunds every year. That salt is taken to the Government depots at Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey and Munambom.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Am I to understand that the department does not offer their salt for sale at the factories ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, the Department sells salt sometimes in the factories also.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Is it not competition?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not. Government have to see that the price of salt is not unduly raised by th licensees. After about the middle of this year, there is some scarcity of salt in the factories. Before this there was competition on the part of the licensees to sell. They resorted to underselling to some extent. So the licensees themselves requested me to make some arrangement under which they can sell their salt without underselling Now the trouble is otherwise. On account of the failure of the manufacture this year, the complaint is from the merchants who say that they have to pay higher price in the shape of cooly hire. The Government are bound to see that there is no undue raising of the prices resulting in hardship to consumers. Government interfere only to that extent. There is absolutely no idea of entering into a competition with the licensees. Whenever any action was taken, it was mostly with the consent of the licensees.

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[Mr. C. O. Madhavan.]

Mr. G. Nilakantan spoke about the negligence on the part of Government. As I have already said, Government are doing all that is possible to prevent the silting up of the lake.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there any allotment every year for the removal of silt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

That is all that I have to say.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir I want to explain certain points raised by Mr. Nilakantan in the course of his speech. He said that the difficulty in regard to the drainage was created by Karayalars. I do not know what he meant by 'Karayalars'. Taking the word as it is, I may state that the factories put up by Karayalars—let it mean anything—were put up under a license from Government and after assignment by Government. They did not encroach upon *poramboke* or create any mischief by diverting water. Then Mr. Chidambaram Pillai referred to the conflict of interests between the licensees and cultivators. Salt licensees also want rain as much as the cultivators.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): But not at the same time.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Yes, we want rains in the rainy season.

Then with regard to the clearance of the silt in the Manakudy lake, the Excise Commissioner said that periodical clearance is being done. I am not aware of any such activities on the part of the Department. I would urge upon the attention of the Excise Commissioner that the work be done systematically and periodically with a view really to clear the silt so that flooding may not occur as often as it is occurring now.

Then with regard to the concessions to the licensees, the Excise Commissioner stated that it does not in any way affect the interests of other licensees. I ask, does it not lead to competition between the licensees? Is it not to the detriment of the licensees?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it not to the betterment of the public? Is it not to the benefit of the general public?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): It does not affect the general public and it affects the interests of the other licensees.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it the member's opinion that the output of salt must be restricted?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Probably the member has misunderstood the concession given to other licensees.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Can the member enlighten the House what he means by concessions?

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): 'Concession' means a premium paid by one party to another.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is it payment in kind or payment in cash?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): It is payment though not in cash, at least in kind.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): How does it affect the other licensees?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): The licensee concerned is at liberty to release so much more salt and sell it. That means competition.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether it affects the consumer?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): It does not affect the consumer here.

The Excise Commissioner has not given any undertaking on the point that I have urged.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether by concessions which the member is refering to the consumer is benefited?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): He is neither benefited nor prejudicially affected. The Excise Commissioner could not give a definite undertaking on the question as to whether he would arrange to remove the silt periodically with a view to prevent recurrence of floods and submerging of lands. I would welcome a statement from the Excise Commissioner.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Silt is being removed every year. Government are doing every thing possible in that direction. An outlet is provided for the silt to be washed away by cutting the bar.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Does he refer to the opening of the bar?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There is a special allotment in the budget for that item. It will be attended to.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I take it as an undertaking?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): On the assurance that the Excise Commissioner would undertake to see my suggestions carried out, I beg leave to withdraw the motion:—

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 64.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,639 for Salt factories by Rupees 5,*"

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

My object in making this motion is to urge that the salt factories at Colachel and Rajakamangalam be abolished. My first point is that the outturn of salt in these factories will not justify the running of these factories. The outturn in the Colachel factory during the last three years from 1105 to 1107 is as follows. In 1105 it was over 1,700 maunds, in 1106 it was 1,751 maunds and in 1107 it was 1,628 maunds. The value of the salt per annum works out to about 300 or 400 rupees. That is sufficient in itself to justify my proposal. The establishment charges will not be covered by the value of the salt. It is a sheer vaste of public money on these factories.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What is the amount of the establishment charges?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): All that I can say is the establishment charges will not be covered by the value of the salt. There is one Inspector, one Petty Officer and some seven or eight peons.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know, is that factory worked by Government?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): There are licensees?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is there not a complaint from the licensees that the factory should not be worked by Government?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I do not know. I am placing all the facts before the House. The salt manufactured in that allom is being made over to Government and the Government pay the kudivila on the salt. The difference between the market value and the kudivila is not sufficient to cover the expenses. In the case of Rajakkamangalam also, the same situation arises. The out-turn of salt in 1106 was 15,472 maunds. In 1107 it came down to 8,788 maunds. Calculating the value of the quantity, it works out to about Rs. 3,000 in 1106 and about Rs. 1,600 in 1107. Considering the market value of the salt and the kudivila paid, I have to observe that these factories cannot be run without loss to Government. The licensees too are not benefited.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Why was there a heavy fall in 1107?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I do not know.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I wish to know, is there any particular reason for the fall?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That only shows that the factory has been deteriorating. That is the natural conclusion to arrive at.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know, is it owing to the neglect on the part of the licensees that there is a fall in production?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): These are hard facts and we have to face them.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the member is representing the interests of the general body of consumers and the licensees?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Both.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether he will recommend the abolition of all the factories at Thamarakulam if it is found that they are working at a loss?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Certainly.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the continuation of these two factories prejudicially affects the other licensees in Thamarakulam?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): In the sense it affect the ordinary tax payer.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): About the licensees? What about the licensees proper?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am speaking on behalf of the ordinary tax payer.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What about the Kumari allom.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): What has that to do with Colachel.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What about the fall in Kumari allom?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That may be due to the small acreage of the allom.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Even then the establishment charges are the same.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): But you must understand one Inspector will be in charge of two or three alloms.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is there any Inspector in the Rajakkamangalam allom.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): There is one Inspector. Recently one Sub-Inspector has been put in charge.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Has the member any objection to hand over the alloms to private enterprise who come forward?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Anyway I know that it will not be profitable to any man to undertake the matter.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask the member suppose there is one man prepared to take it up and work them, has the member any objection to hand over the alloms?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): It may not be feasible for any man to take them up and work them.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What does the member say in regard to a particular question?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am not prepared to accept the member's view.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Instead of abolishing these alloms as the member has now come forward with a proposal, I ask why not give them to a man who is prepared to take it up and work the concerns?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That question does not arise at all. My next point is—

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want a definite answer to my question, Sir.

PRESIDENT: You must be satisfied with the answer given.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, that is a point for ruling. The member is saying this information just to convince us for the necessity of abolition. My question is relevant and it is capable of being answered.

PRESIDENT: If a member is not prepared to answer that question, you can not compel him to answer. In these matters I am not to be judge.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am at liberty to answer that question or not. I have already given an indication.

My next point is these two factories are not advantageously situated for salt manufacture. I myself inspected these factories with a view to find out whether they could be improved for the purpose of manufacture of salt. That was my only object. I stated the situation of the Rajakamangalam allom is such that it is not fit for cultivation. This is the case in regard to the Colachel factory also. It is situated in a depression. It is therefore subject to fresh water percolation. In addition to that, there is a fresh water channel flowing along one side. That is a serious defect for the production of salt. On this account it is unsuitable for the manufacture of salt. This applies as well to Rajakkamangalom allom also. That is also subject to percolation and there is a fresh water channel running along one side. In this connection I shall refer to the remarks in the Administration Report of the Department for 1107. The Excise Commissioner himself indirectly admits the fact that Rajakkamangalom salt factory cannot be worked satisfactorily. In view of this consideration, the post of the Inspector attached to the Rajakkamangalom has been abolished. The

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Excise Commissioner reports as follows at page 6 of the Administration Report :

> "The post of Inspector attached to the Rajakkamangalam Salt Factory was abolished temporarily and the factory was placed under a Sub-Inspector," etc.

The inference is obvious.

Again, at page 22 of the Departmental Report the following observation is made :

> "The problems of fresh water percolation and difficulty of getting brine still remain unsolved as in previous years. The work proposed by the late Chief Engineer Mr. Vipan, that is the construction of a combined foot-bridge and aqueduct across the Pampurivoikal for taking brine into the reservoir has not been completed. How far the work will solve the problem of brine supply can be known only after it is completed."

The Excise Commissioner himself views the situation with great pessimism. I do not know how far works of doubtful utility can be undertaken and money wasted on such projects. From a local study of the situation I am firmly of the opinion that it is very difficult to get a sufficient supply of brine for these two factories. The proposal of the Chief Engineer or whatever authority it may be, to construct a bridge or aqueduct cannot after all be beneficial to these factories.

As Mr. G. Nilakantan suggested in regard to brine supply, I am sure the supply cannot be had at all seasons. When it is required for the manufacture of salt in the Colachel factory, it is not available. I know the channel was intended to take brine from the sea but it is absolutely of no use. When I visited the factory last, it was dried up. There is another difficulty and that is the problem of drainage. It is a huge problem and unless this is solved satisfactorily, there is no possibility of improving the salt manufacture in these alloms.

PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Salt is a very nice thing and it is one of the very essential necessaries for all the people living. I am afraid we have had too much of it for the day. I therefore take the early opportunity to oppose the motion. The gist of the motion appears to be that two of the unoffending alloms should be abolished and encouragement should be offered to the remaining alloms. I would have wished that all the alloms in the State are abolished and say an acre of land at Karunagappally or Quilon be granted to me so that I may manufacture all the salt necessary for the State. If such a proposition would be accepted by Government, I would have supported the motion now before the House. However good that may be to the betterment of an individual, I have to oppose it in the interest of the people at large. I would also suggest that all possible encouragement should be given to the existing alloms and also for opening up new alloms wherever possible, so that all the salt necessary for the State might be manufactured. Mr. Karayalar advocated certain concessions to some people at the sacrifice of others. That I suppose could in no case be granted. I hope that other members will also take the opportunity to oppose the motion. With these few words, I oppose the motion.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I oppose the motion of Mr. Karayalar on two grounds. Firstly the arguments advanced by Mr. Karayalar for the abolition of the factories at Colachel and Rajakamangalam are not convincing enough. Secondly, at page 22 of the Excise Department Administration Report it is stated :—

'The works mentioned in the Administration reports of the previous years have not been completed. The P. W. D. is taking prompt steps to complete the works at the earliest opportunity. Until the works are completed the manufacture in the factory must remain unsatisfactory.

"The problems of fresh water percolation and the difficulty of getting brine still remain unsolved as in previous years. The work proposed by the late Chief Engineer, Mr. Vypen *i. e.*,, the construction of a combined foot bridge and aqueduct across the Pampuri Vaikal for taking brine into the reservoir has not been completed."

Two reasons are stated there for the unsatisfactory working of the factories. If the proposed construction is over, I think there will be no need for abolishing the factories at all. Hence I oppose the motion.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I move that the question be put.

PRESIDENT: The motion before the House is that the question be put.

The motion for the closure of the discussion was then put to the vote of the House and carried.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The motion of Mr. Karayalar is that the salt factories at Colachel and Rajakamangalam be abolished. It is true that these two factories are not yielding a sufficient quantity of salt to justify their existence. But the object of the Government being to encourage the manufacture of salt and to make the State self-supporting in that respect as stated at the commencement of the discussion, it is not desirable or wise to abolish the salt factories without trying all possible means to improve them. If these factories are to be abolished, the licensees will have to be paid compensation under Section 16 and 14 of the Salt Regulation.

I would now add a few words about the two factories separately. As for the Rajakamangalam Factory, there is already an pplication from Mr. Muthuswamy Karayalar.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I correct the member by saying that he has given up that idea?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have absolutely no idea. If Mr. Karayalar has withdrawn that application, then that objection does not stand. The existing factory is still being worked to some extent. There is further an application for resuscitating the defunct Sree Chithralom factory. Under these circumstances the question of abolishing the Rajakamangalam factory cannot be seriously thought of.

So far as Colachel is concerned, there has already been an application from a gentleman who is able to work it praying that the present licensees may be cancelled and the factory given to him. So it would not be wise to close down the factories.

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What I have to say with regard to these factories is that before ordering their closing, Government might try whether the salt factories could be improved. If after trying all possible means it is found that it is not possible to improve the factories then Mr. Karayalar's motion may be accepted. But the time has not yet come for accepting the motion. So I oppose the motion of Mr. Karayalar for the immediate abolition of the factories.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I object to the withdrawal

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I also object to the withdrawal.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,689 for salt factories by Rupees 5 on the ground that salt factories at Colachel and Rajakamangalam be abolished.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and lost.

Motion 65.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I beg to move:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,58,764 for Salt by Re. 1.

Sir, the question of brine supply has been engaging the attention of Government for the last 15 or 17 years, and yet it has not materialised. The Excise Commissioner has now promised that it is engaging his attention. With regard to the proposal of sinking a series of wells on the seashore I may say that it is not likely to work successfully. Pumping water from the sea is a more sure method.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether a continuous supply of brine is always good?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): It is certainly good. But how to get it? Since the old allom and the Puthalam which depended for its brine on the Manakudi lake are not getting it at present, it is the duty of the Government to supply brine as soon as possible. If the scheme of pumping brine is carried out we can expect 22 lakhs of maunds from the Thamarakulam group of factories alone. In this calculation I have left out the factories at Rajakamangalam and Colachel. These factories cannot be worked now. In olden days one factor was absent. There was not the Pachipara extension. This has flooded the whole area and the salt pans are percolated with fresh water. We find that even the central portion of the alloms is subject to percolation. This percolation cannot be stopped. Another thing is that the factories get brine through the bar. The sea water can be got through the bar only at particular seasons in the months of Kumbhom and Meenom and these months are months of the closing season. At the beginning of the season no brine can be got. Unless one gets brine in Vrischikom or Dhanu, no salt can be manufactured. The brine got towards the close of the season is diluted by the rains. So we cannot at all depend upon these old factories, for the development of salt industry. We must entirely concentrate our attention on the Thamarakulam factories

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[Mr. G. Nilakantan.]

and the Thamarakulam factories can be developed only by the supply of brine. There are some factories which depend entirely on pit brine. But the use of the pit brine for a long time will be ruinous to these factories eventually unless sea brine is secured and combined with pit brine. So special attention has to be taken for supplying brine from the sea.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So far as taking brine from the sea is concerned, it is the opinion of the Chief Engineer that by sinking wells on the beach and pumping brine out of the sea, the scarcity of brine supply can be overcome. In such matters the Department can only follow the advice of the Chief Engineer.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Has any Engineer with extensive experience of salt manufacturing examined this question on the spot?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Chief Engineers in Travancore has gone into this question. But I cannot say whether they were men of extensive experience in the manufacture of salt.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Will the Government be pleased to appoint a competent and experienced Engineer to go into the question?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That question will be considered by the Government.

The time allotted for the Demand being over, the following motions lapsed :—

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

66. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,58,764 for Salt by Rs. 5.

4 A.—EXCISE—COMMISSIONER—*Establishment.*

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI :

67. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,228 for Head Clerk, Head Accountant, Clerks, etc., by Rs. 5.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

68. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 780 for temporary clerks by Re. 1.

COMMISSIONER—*Allowances.*

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

69. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI :

70. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 5.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKAR :

71. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100.

Motions for reduction of total grant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

72. To reduce the allotment of Rs 39,853 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

73. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,853 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

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MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI :

74. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,853 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. M. N. NAIR :

75. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,853 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

4 B—EXCISE DIVISION OFFICES—*Salaries.*

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,147 for Assistant Excise Commissioners by Re. 1.

4 C— EXCISE—RANGES—*Salaries.*

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :

77. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 44,080 for Range Inspectors by Re. 1

4—EXCISE—*Motions for reduction of total grant.*

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER :

78. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,79,715 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

79. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,79,715 for Excise by Rs. 100.

5 CUSTOMS.

Motions for reduction of total grant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

80. To reduce the toral allotment of Rs. 88,922 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH :

81. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,922 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

82. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,922 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON :

83. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,922 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

84. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,922 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

85. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,922 for Customs by Rs. 100.

Motions for reduction of total grant under Demand III.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI :

86. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 6,27,401 under Demand III by Re. 1.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI :

87. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 6,27,401 under Demand III by Rs. 10.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

88. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 6,27,401 under Demand III by Rs. 6,27,400.

The motion that Demand III—Excise Department for Rs. 6,27,401 was then put to the vote of the House and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant made.

The House adjourned at 4-47 P. M. to meet the next day.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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